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SAVING FLOORS:

A radio talk delivered by Miss Jean Stewart, Home Economist, Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, during the Western Farm and Home Hour Friday, February 26, 1932 through Station KGO and seven other stations associated with the NBC-KGO network, Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.

--ooOoo--

Floors are the pride of many a home. Against the background of a handsome floor, your rugs and furniture show up to best advantage. The right finish gives the floor its good looks. But the right care is what keeps them that way. Too many times an expensively finished floor is spoiled by neglect or the wrong methods of cleaning.

Whether the floor is waxed or painted, varnished or shellacked, or finished in any other way, it will be spoiled if dirt is allowed to accumulate on it and grind into the surface. Day by day sweeping and dusting saves any kind of finish. Floors last longest that are kept clean and are protected from heavy wear and stains.

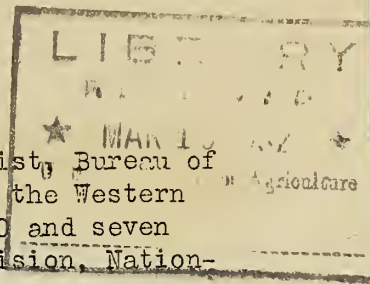
Certain places get harder wear than others, naturally -- places near doors, for example, or in hallways. It's a good idea to protect these hard-wear stretches by small rugs. Then, mats, just outside the entrances to your house will catch much of the mud, and the other dirt that might otherwise be carried in on shoes.

Another point in saving floors has to do with stains. If you spill something on the floor, be spry about cleaning it up, even if it's only a tiny spot. A little bit of grease or a few drops of water on a waxed floor may spoil its looks. The sooner you remove the spot the easier the job will be and the less damage it will do to the floor. Spilled grease, you know, is soon absorbed by the wood. Then it's difficult or often impossible to remove the spot. An acid, even the little that might leak from the radio battery, will soon discolor the floor. Many other stains, if not removed promptly, may mean refinishing your floor.

But to go back to proper cleaning methods. Let's consider the tools for the job first. Modern sweeping is much like the gentle art of brushing. The day is past when sweeping means raising clouds of dust. This is the day of dustless dusting, vacuum cleaning and gentle brushing. So your right-hand assistant in floor cleaning will be the soft-bristled push broom and the dry mop. Keep the push broom close to the floor as you use it, and brush with even forward strokes. In this way little dust will be stirred up. A broom covered with a bag of canton flannel is a good utensil for sweeping polished floors. Then there's the dustless mop. For waxed floors, of course, you'll use a dry mop with no oil in it.

That brings us to the subject of how to clean different kinds of floors. Clean waxed floors, as I said, with a soft brush or a mop entirely free from oil. Oil, you see, softens the wax and thus spoils the polished finish.

(over)



More information about the care of waxed floors as well as of unfinished floors, varnished, painted, oiled, and cement floors is to be found in that useful bulletin called "Floors and Floor Coverings." You can have this bulletin just by writing to this station for it. The number is No. 1219 -- Farmers' Bulletin 1219.

And now to turn from floors to the menu for today. A dinner menu. Veal birds, for the main dish, served with Creamed potatoes; Carrots and peas, buttered; Crisp celery; and Steved fruit and Honey cookies for dessert.

Perhaps you have a different name for veal birds. They bear an amazing resemblance to Mock Duck. There is a recipe for them in the Green Radio Cookbook.

In this country, honey is more often used uncooked than cooked. However, in Europe honey is much more commonly used in cookery. In order to learn how honey is used in cookery, the Department of Agriculture has examined standard cookbooks from many countries and consulted many persons familiar with honey cookery. Many recipes have been tested and some of the most desirable ones adapted for use in the United States. There are published in Farmers' Bulletin No. 653 entitled, "Honey and Its Uses in the Home." The recipe in our menu today for honey cookies may be found there.

Let's see--that makes three publications which you might desire:
"Floors and Floor Coverings," Farmers' Bulletin No. 1219;
"Honey and Its Uses in the Home," Farmers Bulletin No. 653; and
"Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes Revised."